

WHAT WE DO:

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is a unique education agency that provides programs, tools, and resources on a local and statewide level that teach people how to improve agriculture and food production, advance health practices, protect the environment, strengthen the economy, and enrich youth. In all 254 counties, County Extension Agents serve families, youth, communities and businesses throughout the state.

EXTENSION STAFF

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4-H & Youth Development

By: Klarissa Cantu, CEA - 4-H & Youth Development

Food Challenge Mock Competition



The "Clever Chefs" from Arroyo 4-H Club participated in our Mock Food Challenge competition to get ready for District. They did very well & impressed our judges!

2019 4-H Holiday Help



Thanksgiving Holiday Help



The Cameron County 4-H Council & Texas Farm Bureau donated



10 Thanksgiving Meals

for families in need within the Harlingen School District

THANK YOU

Texas Farm Bureau donated **\$200.00** to purchase turkeys



Christmas Holiday Help



Members of Cameron County 4-H participated in the "Gifts for Teens" gift drive in partnership with the RGV Credit Union on December 11th in San Benito, TX.



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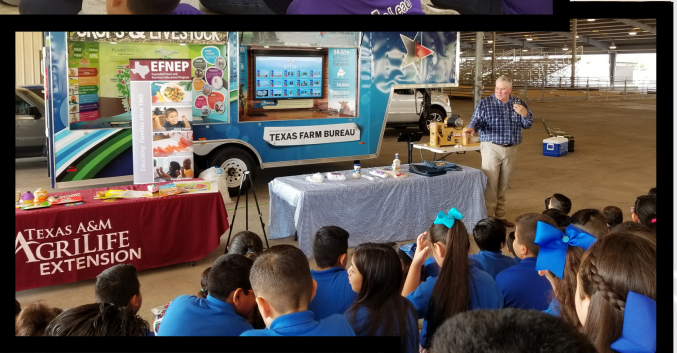


bit.ly/Cam4HYouth

Kids, Kows & More

Over **1,500** youth

from Cameron & Hidalgo County attended a 2-day event in which participants learned about the different Agricultural Commodities produced in South Texas





Cooperative Extension 4-H & Youth Development

By: Guadalupe Castro, Cooperative Extension - 4-H & Youth Development

One Day 4-H Community Service Day

- Sullivan 4-H Club assisted in the Master Gardener Plant Sale by leading kid's activities.
- Future Leaders of Brownsville 4-H cleaned Morningside Park in Brownsville



4-H National Youth Science Day Change Makers



30 students

in Frank Roberts Elementary in San Benito participated in 4-H National Youth Science Day - Change Makers experiment.

Igniting Sparks

30 students

in Frank Roberts Elementary and La Encantada Elementary participated in the Igniting Sparks programs which teaches about their passion and how to develop it.



4-H Winter Family Night



Families in Sullivan Elementary participated in various activities that taught them what plants need to grow, how to make a salad, and the importance of gardening.



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bit.ly/CEP4HandYouth

Family & Community Health

By: Lilian Mezquida, CEA - Family & Community Health

Hats Off to Breast Health

Every day, each of us wears a different hat.

Sometimes we wear more than one.

The hat you are wearing today may be the very HAT that could decrease your chances of surviving breast cancer.



Child Passenger Safety Training

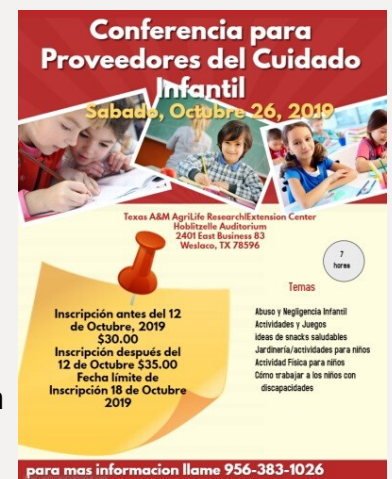


In November,
I attended the Child Passenger Safety Training
& after 4 days of training, I received my
National Certified Child Passenger
Safety Technician.

Multi-County Child Care Conference (In Spanish)

40
Participants from
Cameron
and Hidalgo

6
Continued Education
Credits
issued



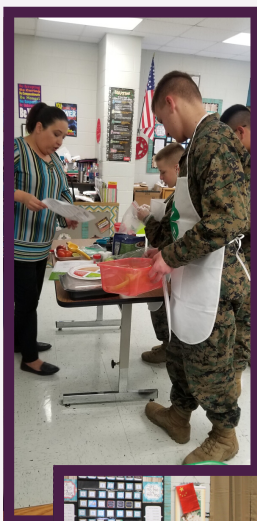
Cooperative Extension Family & Community Health

By: Gloria Carter, Cooperative Extension - Family & Community Health

MMA & Heroes 4-Health

11 Marine Military
Academy Cadets

completed the
Heroes 4-Health
on December 13, 2019



Taste of Latin American Heritage



7 participants

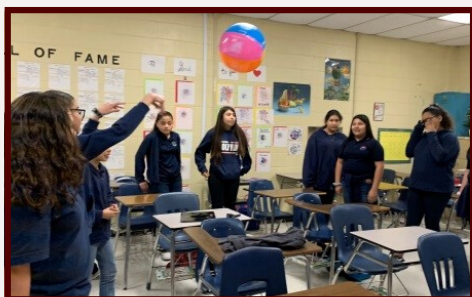
at Treasure Hills Elementary completed the
Taste of Latin American Heritage program in November

Better Living for Texans

By: Nidia Garcia, Extension Agent - Better Living for Texans
Esmeralda Avila, Nutrition Education Associate

Walk N Talk

22
Adult
Graduates



More than
120
Youth Graduates

Students from Oliveira Middle School Participating in the **Walk N Talk** Youth Program tasting a Pumpkin Smoothie Recipe and Exercising with the MyPlate toss up ball activity.

A Fresh Start to a Healthier You



110
graduates





Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program

By: Melissa DeLeon, EFNEP Agent

Vision:

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) in Cameron County helps young families and youths with limited resources - those most at risk who suffer from hunger, food insecurity and the inability to connect with available support systems.

EFNEP Offers practical lessons in:

- Basic Nutrition
- Food Budget Management
- Food Preparation
- Food Safety

All in settings convenient for the participants.

Our total EFNEP-Adult enrollment numbers for months of October thru December

193

of which

119

have graduated

Our total EFNEP-Youth enrollment participation in Cameron County is

2,337

of which

2,114

have graduated



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bit.ly/EFNEP_CAM

Horticulture

By: Jennifer Herrera, County Extension Agent - Horticulture

Master Gardener Intern Tours



Rivers End Nursery



Sabal Palm Nursery

RGV Small Acreage



RGV Small Acreage Farm
Visits with Harlingen Farmers Market

Master Gardener Intern Show & Tell



Garden Expo & Plant Sale

438 participants



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bit.ly/CAM_HORT

Coastal & Marine

By: Tony Reisinger, County Extension Agent - Coastal & Marine

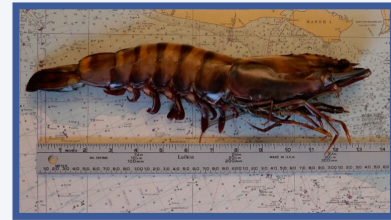
Primary focus this quarter for Coastal & Marine Resources was the shrimp fishery, hurricane preparation, Texas Master Naturalists and Red Tide Training.

2019 4-H Fishing Camp



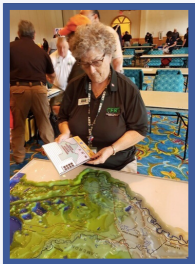
Marine Agent - Tony Reisinger (not pictured) served on the staff of the 2019 4-H Fishing Camp in Brownwood last quarter.

Asian Tiger Shrimp Spotted



An Asian Tiger Shrimp landed by a Brownsville shrimp fisherman. It had thousands of views on local media. This invasive has established a small population in the Gulf of Mexico and has not affected our native shrimp population to our knowledge.

Arroyo Colorado



Cameron County Extension exhibited the Arroyo Colorado model to demonstrate the impacts of flooding on the Valley at the 2019 AARP Hurricane Seminar in Brownsville.

Windshield Assessments



Last quarter county agents Tony Reisinger & Marco Ponce conducted windshield damage assessments with the Texas Division of Emergency Management in Cameron County after a major flood event in June.

RGVCTMN

The Rio Grande Valley Chapter Texas Master Naturalists Climate Committee met monthly to develop a Master Naturalist curriculum on recent climate impacts

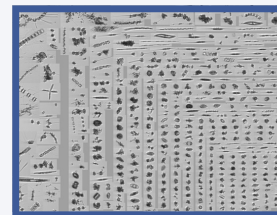


Shrimp Season



The Shrimp Season this year has resulted in consistent production with lower prices for the product. By the second week of December most of our 180-vessel fleet was still fishing. Lower fuel prices and the utilization of super fiber webbing (which we introduced) has contributed to a reduction in production costs allowing for the fleet to continue fishing. We continue to assist the industry the TED (Turtle Excluder Device) compliance through dockside inspections

Red Tide



Thankfully, Red Tide did not visit us again this quarter. We held a Red Tide Ranger training at the UTRGV Coastal Studies Lab as a refresher on October 7. We learned UTRGV now has a cytotob online in Port Isabel which services as an early warning for Red Tide. It continuously monitors ambient plankton photographing them under a microscope. The above series shows recent plankters in the Port Isabel waters.



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bit.ly/Cameron_CoastalMarine

Agriculture & Natural Resources

By: Marco Ponce, County Extension Agent - Agriculture & Natural Resources

Agricultural Pesticide Waste Container Event



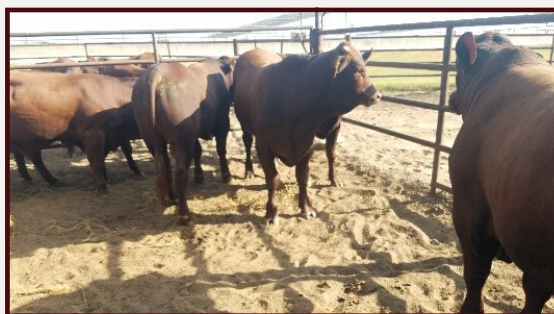
Agricultural Pesticide Waste Container Event collected over 2,500 gallons of chemical from Agricultural producers for proper disposal.

Bull Gain & Heifer Development Program

Over

75

bulls and heifers were registered for the Bull Gain & Heifer Development program held at Rio Beef feed yard.



Livestock will be measured on performance standards such as average daily gain, ribeye area, and breeding soundness exam.

2019 Volunteer Appreciation

Over

50

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Volunteers attended.



Volunteers were recognized for their countless hours of dedication and support to each of the various educational program areas.



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bit.ly/Cameron_Agriculture



Upcoming Programs & Events

Be Informed on our upcoming programs & events by visiting us at -

www.cameron.agrilife.org/events/

- January 1 - AgriLife Extension Office Closed in Observance of New Year Day
- January 7 - Rio Grande Valley Chapter Texas Master Naturalists Board Meeting
- January 9 - Cameron County Master Gardener Board Meeting
- January 9 - Cameron County Master Gardener General Meeting
- January 14 - Cotton & Grain PrePlant Conference
- January 14 - Rio Grande Valley Chapter Texas Master Naturalists General Meeting
- January 15 - RGVCTMN 2020 Winter Training Class (1st Class)
- January 20 - AgriLife Extension Office Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 21 - 4-H County Council & Club Managers Meeting
- January 22 - RGVCTMN 2020 Winter Training Class
- January 27 - RGVCTMN 2020 Winter Training Class
- January 27 - Chik Fil A Spirit Night Cameron County 4-H Council
- February 3 - AgriLife Extension Office Closed in Observance of Presidents Day
- February 4 - Rio Grande Valley Chapter Texas Master Naturalists Board Meeting
- February 5 - RGVCTMN 2020 Winter Training Class
- February 6 - 4-H Livestock Judging Training
- February 10 - Parenting Classes (English & Spanish Classes Available)
- February 11 - Rio Grande Valley Chapter Texas Master Naturalists General Meeting
- February 12 - RGVCTMN 2020 Winter Training Class
- February 17 - Parenting Classes (English & Spanish Classes Available)
- February 17 - 4-H County Council & Club Managers Meeting
- February 19 - RGVCTMN 2020 Winter Training Class
- February 21 - Better Living for Texans Advisory Board Meeting
- February 24 - Parenting Classes (English & Spanish Classes Available)
- February 26 - RGVCTMN 2020 Winter Training Class
- March 3 - Rio Grande Valley Chapter Texas Master Naturalists Board Meeting
- March 4 - RGVCTMN 2020 Winter Training Class
- March 10 - Rio Grande Valley Chapter Texas Master Naturalists General Meeting
- March 11 - RGVCTMN 2020 Winter Training Class
- March 18 - RGVCTMN 2020 Winter Training Class
- March 23 - 4-H County Council & Club Managers Meeting
- March 25 - RGVCTMN 2020 Winter Training Class (Last Class)
- March 30 - AgriLife Extension Office Closed in Observance of Cesar Chavez Day
- April 7 - Rio Grande Valley Chapter Texas Master Naturalists Board Meeting
- April 10 - AgriLife Extension Office Closed in Observance of Good Friday
- April 14 - Rio Grande Valley Chapter Texas Master Naturalists General Meeting
- April 20 - 4-H County Council & Club Managers Meeting